



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Department Name: Public Works  
Department No.: 054  
For Agenda Of: May 20, 2014  
Placement: Administrative  
Estimated Tme: N/A  
Continued Item: No  
If Yes, date from:  
Vote Required: Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director Scott D. McGolpin, Public Works Director, 568-3010  
Contact Info: Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director, Transportation 568-3064  
**SUBJECT:** Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 Seismic Gate Project; County Project No. 830408; First Supervisorial District

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve the Project, Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 Seismic Gate Project; County Project No. 830408; First Supervisorial District;
- B. Find that the proposed action is for the repair, maintenance or minor alteration of an existing public facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that which presently exists, that the proposed action is therefore exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 CCR 15301 (c), and approve the filing of a Notice of Exemption on that basis;
- C. Authorize the Director of Public Works to proceed with right-of-way negotiations for the Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 Seismic Gate Project; County Project 830408; First Supervisorial District; and
- D. Authorize the Director of Public Works to advertise for construction bids for the Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 Seismic Gate Project; County Project No. 830408; First Supervisorial District

**Summary Text:**

The existing Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 is a reinforced concrete arch bridge constructed in 1915 that is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is approximately 125 feet long and 23 feet wide, and crosses Rincon Creek, which is the jurisdictional boundary between the County of Santa Barbara and the County of Ventura in this area. Due to deterioration of the supporting columns at Bent 4, a supplemental steel support frame and pile structure was constructed in 1968 to provide support to the damaged columns supporting the pre-cast arch. Several existing utilities are carried below the west barrier rail.

This project will retrofit the existing Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 with a seismic gate system, including the installation of two 22 foot long motorized gate arms, flashing beacons and illuminated warning signs at both approaches to the bridge. These warning gates are lowered only when both the bridge mounted and free field sensors record an acceleration magnitude of 0.05g (or 5% of the force of gravity). Control cabinets will be constructed near the bridge to house additional elements of the system, including back-up battery system and a telephone link to alert the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department when the system has been activated. In addition to these items, some minor improvements will be constructed to protect the proposed installations and provide adequate turn-around width in advance of the seismic gate arms.

Pursuant to the County's CEQA guidelines, the Department of Public Works has determined that this project is exempt from further environmental review. Approval of this CEQA Notice of Exemption will indicate the Board of Supervisors' approval of this project and will commence the appeal period, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

If approved, the "Notice to Contractors" will be published prior to the date set for the opening of the bids. Sealed proposals to construct this project will be received at the front counter, Santa Barbara County Department of Public Works, County Engineering Building, 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, California 93101, and at the North County Public Works Office, 620 West Foster Road, Santa Maria, California 93455, at a date to be determined, and will be opened publicly and read aloud.

Approval by the Board of Supervisors will also allow the Public Works Department to proceed with right-of-way negotiations with the County of Ventura and coordination with utilities, as necessary. The Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039 is situated on the jurisdictional boundary between the County of Santa Barbara and the County of Ventura. As such, we are seeking to enact agreements with the County of Ventura to build the project, as well as maintain the installations on County of Ventura right of way.



**View of Rincon Hill Road Bridge No. 51C-0039, looking north along downstream edge of bridge**

### **Background:**

The bridge was identified by Caltrans as requiring seismic retrofit per the Local Seismic Safety Retrofit Program. While replacement of the structure is warranted given the condition of the existing bridge, retrofitting the existing structure with a seismic gate system was deemed to be the preferred alternative. This is due to the relatively small average daily traffic (191 vehicles/day in 2011), an alternate route that

increases driving distance by only 0.3 miles, the historical nature of the structure, and high costs associated with the design, construction and environmental permitting required for a more extensive retrofit or replacement strategy. Several options were evaluated and based on responses to a public outreach meeting, it was determined that the best alternative was to install a seismic safety gate system to temporarily close the bridge during a sizeable seismic event.

The County of Santa Barbara Department of Public Works is working with the County of Ventura to implement these seismic retrofit elements, half of which will be installed south of the bridge, within County of Ventura right of way. The Department applied for and received funding for this project through a competitive federal program created to improve the safety of seismically deficient bridges.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b><u>Funding Sources</u></b>	<b><u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u></b>
Highway Bridge Program (HBP)	\$ 44,265.00
State Proposition 1B Funds	\$ 5,735.00
Total	\$ 50,000.00

**Narrative:**

The Right of Way and Utility Coordination costs, including any necessary surveys, staff support work, and creation of a master agreement and cooperative agreement with the County of Ventura are estimated to be \$50,000. Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) will fund 88.53% of these costs (\$44,265). State Proposition 1B Seismic funds will provide the remaining 11.47% (\$5,735). These funds are budgeted in Dept. 054, Fund 0017, Org. 0600, Program 2830, Account 7650.

To preserve the competitive bidding process for Public Contracts, the construction funding will be disclosed after bids are opened and the Department approaches the Board for the Award of a construction contract. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of this year. Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) will fund 88.53% of construction costs. State Proposition 1B Seismic funds will provide the remaining 11.47% of construction costs. The funds have been budgeted for FY 2014/2015 in Dept. 054, Fund 0017, Org. 0600, Program 2830, Account 7650.

**Special Instructions:**

Please provide a certified, stamped minute order approving these actions to the Public Works Department, Transportation Division, Engineering Section office, 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, Attn: Gena Valentine-Felix.

**Attachment:**

CEQA Notice of Exemption

**Authored by:**

Christian Doolittle, P.G., Project Manager, 739-8777